

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for considering Applicants' Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed September 18, 2008, as indicated in the Advisory Action dated October 16, 2008, and for providing the explanatory comments contained therein.

Upon entry of the amendment, both independent claims 11 and 15 are amended. Claims 1-10 were previously canceled. Thus, claims 11-18 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application.

In the above referenced Final Official Action, claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111698) in view of SEKIGUCHI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156899). In the amendment, Applicants have clarified an important feature of their invention in independent claims 11 and 15, which is that the remotely-controlled device sends the current address of the remotely controlled device at constant time intervals to the remote controller, so that current status information regarding the remotely controlled device is always available at the remote controller, which current status information then can be subsequently obtained by the terminal device. This feature of the remotely controlled device of sending the current address through the network to the remote controller enables the remote controller to access the remotely controlled device at all times, even if the address of the remotely controlled device changes frequently, because the current address is updated constantly and stored in the remote controller.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner pointed to GRAZIANO's paragraphs [0070] and [0073] as disclosing that GRAZIANO communicates with the home devices at constant times. In these paragraphs, GRAZIANO discusses the home attendant as monitoring home devices.

However, Applicants submit that the cited section of GRAZIANO fail to disclose the communication by the home attendant with the web based host (70) at constant time intervals. Of particular importance, Applicants submit that GRAZIANO also fails to disclose the sending of the current address of a remotely controlled device through the network to the web-based host at constant time intervals.

Additionally, Applicants submit that SEKIGUCHI also fails to disclose this important feature. SEKIGUCHI's paragraphs [0059]-[0062] and [0067]-[0069] disclose that SEKIGUCHI's first system is periodically monitoring the second system to determine if the power of the second system is turned on. The IP address information of the second system is only provided to the first system when the power of the second system is turned on, which occurs at non-constant time intervals. Applicants submit that not only does SEKIGUCHI's second system fail to provide current address information to the first system at constant time intervals, SEKIGUCHI's system does not even have the power turned on for significant periods of time.

Furthermore, combining GRAZIANO and SEKIGUCHI also fails to render Applicants' invention obvious. Applicants submit that even if such a combination might possibly lead one of ordinary skill to use SEKIGUCHI's power monitoring teachings to have GRAZIANO's web-based host (70) monitor the home attendant's power status and then to have an address of the home attendant provided at non-constant time intervals when the power of the home attendant is detected to be turned on, it would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill to repeatedly have the home attendant provide the current address of the home attendant to the web-based host at constant time intervals. Applicants submit that Applicants' invention as now claimed in independent claims 11 and 15 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, and that it would only be through impermissible hindsight reasoning based upon

Applicants' disclosure that such a conclusion could be asserted. Further, Applicants submit that claims 12-14 and 16-18 that depend from independent claims 11 and 15, respectively, are also patentable for at least the reasons provided above and further for the features recited therein.

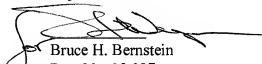
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Accordingly reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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